

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
ANIMALS PERFORMING IN CIRCUSES
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of circuses where wild animals are still being used for performing various activities;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to check the same;
- (c) the number of wild animals rescued from various circuses during 2001-02 and thereafter category-wise;
- (d) the manner in which these rescued animals are being kept; and
- (e) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to release them in the wild?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a),(b),(c),(d) & (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 12 DUE FOR F
NO 15.7.2002 REGARDING ANIMALS PERFORMING IN CIRCUSES.

(a),(b),(c),(d) & (e) Most of the circuses are using some or other wild animals for performing activities. Government of India in October 1998 banned public performance by bear, monkey, tiger, panther and lion. Against this order the Circus Owners went in appeal to the High Court of Delhi and the appeal was rejected in December 1998. They thereafter went in appeal to the Hon'ble Supreme Court where also the appeal was rejected but no orders regarding transfer of animals to the custody of the government was made by the Supreme Court. The Central Government then requested the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States to cancel certificates of ownership of circuses except in cases where there are specific stay orders by the courts and take the custody of the animals and maintain them in the rescue centers constructed through the funds provided by the Central Zoo Authority. The details of the animals transferred from circuses to rescue centers are at Annexure. Each animal has been provided with feeding/night shelter with open area attached for their free movement. Government of India is providing financial assistance to the concerned State Governments where these rescue centers are located to meet the expenditure on their feed and health care. As these animals do not have the capacity to fend for themselves in the wild it is not possible to release them in the wild.

Annexe referred to in the Statement in reply to part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 12 due for reply on 15.7.2002 regarding animals performing in circuses.

LIST OF ANIMALS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS CIRCUSES

1. UPTO THE YEAR 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Name of the Circus	No. of Lions	No. of Tigers	No. of Bears	No. of Panthers	Total
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1.	Mobile Circus, Kolar	1	1	2		
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2.	Mobile Circus, Kundapur	2		2		
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3.	Geeta Circus	11		11		
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4.	Komal Circus	29	1	30		
	Total	42	1	1	1	45

II. FROM 2001 TILL DATE

Sl. No. Name of the Circus No. of Lions No. of Tigers No. of Bears No. of Panthers Total

5.	Johnson Indian Variety Entertainment	2	1	3		
6.	Royal Mobile Circus	6	1	1	8	
7	Private Circus	6		6		
8.	Great Rayman Circus	15	8	1	24	
9.	Golden Circus	2		2		
10.	Asiad Circus	2	4	6		
11.	Bharat Circus	5		5		
12.	Shalimar & New Circuses	6			6	
13.	Raj Kamal Circus	20	1	21		
14.	Ajanta Circus	18	2	1	21	
15.	Sai Baba Circus	1		1		
16.	Famous Circus	9	21	30		
17.	Rambo Circus	12		12		
18.	Grand National Circus	12	2	14		

Total 116 37 5 1 159

Total animals received 158 38 6 2 204